

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 02756 051236Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FOR PGM/RC, EU/FORNER

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - NEUTRON BOMB

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: KEYING ON GENSCHER WASHINGTON VISIT,
BREZHNEV TRIP TO FRG, YUGOSLAV PRESS RETURNS TO NEUTRON
BOMB ISSUE, GENERALLY VIEWING IT IN CONTEXT OF A BIG-POWER
RIVALRY IN ARMS WHICH NOW ON EVE OF SSOD REACHING A CRITICAL
STAGE. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING BELGRADE DIALY POLITIKA IN APRIL 4 EDITORIAL
"THE NEUTRON MERRY-GO-ROUND" STATES "IN
SEVEN WEEKS THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT...
WILL ARRIVE AT A JUDGEMENT ON QUESTIONS OF PEACE AND
SURVIVAL...ALTHOUGH THEY HOLD A MONOPOLY IN BOTH URANIUM
FUEL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE GREAT POWERS ARE NO LONGER
IN A POSITION TO IGNORE THE REST OF THE WORLD (AND) THE EFFORTS
OF MOST COUNTRIES TO PUT AN END TO THE ARMED NUCLEAR THREAT...

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 02756 051236Z

3. "MOSCOW ANSWERED AMERICAN PRESSURE TO INTRODUCE THE NEUTRON
BOMB BY THE BACK DOOR THROUGH BONN WITH THE PROPOSAL THAT
BREZHNEV VISIT BONN IN JUST A MONTH. UNTIL NOW, THE CARTER DECISION
ON THE NEUTRON BOMB HAS BEEN PUT OFF FOR SEVEN MONTHS WHILE
BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BONN HAS BEEN DELAYED FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS.

4. "EACH SIDE IS TRYING TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT LONGS

FOR A NEW (SALT) ACCORD, BUT THE OTHER IS HOLDING BACK...
(MEANWHILE) AMERICAN EXPERTS ADMIT THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB IS NOT
EVEN NECESSARY FOR DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT THE
PENTAGON IS FORCING NATO TO HAVE IT PUT IN
WESTERN EUROPE (PRIMARILY WEST GERMANY) WHERE NOBODY WANTS IT...

5. POLITIKA CONCLUDES: NO MATTER HOW MUCH AMERICANS REALIZE THEIR
REMARK THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB DECISION LIES WITH THE EUROPEANS --
MAINLY WEST GERMANS -- IS ILLUSORY AND WRONG, THEY CAN MAKE A
GOOD MOVE, VIEWING THE OBVIOUS FOOT-DRAGGING OF THEIR WESTERN
"ALLIES" TOWARD A SOBER POSITION: IN FAVOR OF DISARMAMENT AND
SALT II, WHICH WOULD BE ON THE EVE OF THE SSOD A LONG-RANGE
CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION...

6. MEANWHILE, ZAGREB DAILY VJESNIK CARRIES REPORT FROM ITS BONN
CORRESPONDENT ON CHRISTOPHER AND GENSCHER TRAVELS, SAYING "THE
PROBLEM OF NEUTRON WEAPONS IS, WITHOUT DOUBTS ON TOP OF THE
LIST OF (BONN-WASHINGTON) "FRIENDLY MISUNDERSTANDINGS". SCHMIDT'S
GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR NOT MADE CLEAR WHETHER IT'S FOR OR AGAINST
THE PRODUCTION AND STATIONING... FOR PRESIDENT CARTER IT IS
EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE DECISION ON PRODUCTION AND PLACING
THIS RESPONSIBILITY BE SHARED WITH THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS.
HOWEVER, THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT APPROACHES THIS PROBLEM IN AN
OSTRICH FASHION...

7. SAME VIEW ECHOED BY LJUBLJANA DAILY DELO'S WASHINGTON
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PAGE 03 BELGRA 02756 051236Z

CORRESPONDENT IN APRIL 4 DISPATCH: "THE NEUTRON BOMB IS STILL THE
STUMBLING BLOCK: NEITHER WASHINGTON NOR ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES WANT
TO BE THE FIRST TO APPROVE THE PRODUCTION OF THIS NEW NUCLEAR
WEAPON."
CATHERMAN

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